

Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/605,602
Docket No.: 10233-US-PA

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

It is noted with great appreciation that the Office Action considers claims 2-4 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response thereon, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3-4 and cancelled claim 2, without disclaimer, prejudice or waiver. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1, 3-8 remain pending in the present application. More specifically, claim 2 has been cancelled without disclaimer, prejudice or waiver, and independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2 which the Examiner considered as allowable subject matter. Applicants have cancelled the aforementioned claim merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and facilitate early allowance of other claims in the present application without conceding that 103 rejections are properly based. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the cancelled claim in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose. It is believed that no new matter has been added to the application by the amendments can be found in the specification.

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth hereinbefore, Applicant respectfully submits that all objects and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1, 3-8 are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the present application and all pending

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claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Date :

Respectfully submitted,

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